

ARMAGEDDON

AND

The Day of the Lord



**A Series of Bible Studies on
The Coming Tribulation**

FOUR SERMONS

By

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THE DAY OF THE LORD

CHAPTER ONE

"Howl ye; for the day of the Lord is at hand; it shall come as a destruction from the Almighty.

Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt:

And they shall be afraid: pangs and sorrows shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be amazed one at another; their faces shall be as flames.

Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it.

For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine.

And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible." Isaiah 13:6-11

This is one of the numerous passages in Scripture describing that awful future day, when the Lord will come to judge the world and the nations in preparation for the setting up of the Messianic Millennial kingdom of peace and righteousness. It is called here and in many other places, "The Day of The Lord." It is that period of brief, but intense judgment and suffering which will begin with the Rapture of the Church at Jesus' appearing for His own, and will end with the public glorious Second Coming of Jesus with His glorified church. It will last exactly seven years, corresponding to the last week of the Seventy weeks of Daniel. It is called by various other names in the Scriptures such as, The Tribulation, The Great Tribulation, the Day of Vengeance, a Day of gloom and trouble, and the Indignation of the Lord. But the most frequent name by which it is revealed is the "DAY OF THE LORD." Wherever you find that expression, DAY OF THE LORD, it always has reference

to that terrible day of trouble and judgment beginning with the Rapture of the Church, and ending with the Second Coming of Jesus.

THREE DAYS IN SCRIPTURE.

This Day of the Lord must not be confused with the two other days mentioned in the Bible, the DAY OF CHRIST, and THE DAY OF GOD. The Day of Christ also begins at the Rapture of the Church and covers the same period of time as the Day of the Lord, but the location is different. The "Day of the Lord" occurs on the earth when God judges the nations during the tribulation, while the "Day of Christ" occurs in heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ, where the SAVED, the SAINTS of God are prepared for their reign upon the earth. At the Day of Christ in heaven, after the rapture, the Saints will be judged as to their rewards or loss of rewards. But the Day of the Lord is the awful judgment of the UNSAVED here upon the earth while the saints are already in heaven, preparatory to coming back to the earth to reign with Christ.

THE DAY OF GOD.

There is a third DAY, the "Day of God," mentioned by Peter. In this passage Peter says,

"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.

Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness,

Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the DAY OF GOD, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?

Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness." II Peter 3:10-13.

In this passage both days are mentioned, the DAY OF THE LORD and the DAY OF GOD. The Day of the Lord

ends in the Day of God. The Day of God is the final stage of the Day of the Lord. After the Day of the Lord has run for seven years of awful judgment, it is interrupted by the return of Christ to the earth for one thousand years. Then after the One thousand years the Day of the Lord is resumed, and this final stage is called the "Day of God," the final judgment when the earth will be completely destroyed by fire and out of it will come the renewed and purified earth, to be the abode and dwelling place of God's people throughout eternity. This is the Day of God.

THE DAY OF THE LORD.

In these messages we will be occupied primarily with the Day of the LORD, that terrible day of gloom and sorrow, death and destruction which lies ahead for this world in the not distant future. Now that we have given you the difference between the Day of Christ, the Day of the Lord, and the Day of God we can devote our attention to a study of this solemn terrifying future day which occupies so much of the Scriptures. We already read one of Isaiah's graphic descriptions in chapter 13, now listen to what another of the prophets has to say,

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the Lord cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

A day of darkness and of gloominess, a day of clouds and of thick darkness, as the morning spread upon the mountains: a great people and a strong; there hath not been ever the like, neither shall be any more after it, even to the years of many generations.

A fire devoureth before them; and behind them a flame burneth: the land is as the garden of Eden before them, and behind them a desolate wilderness; yea, and nothing shall escape them." Joel 2:1-3.

This is Joel's description of the devastating armies which shall destroy the earth and seek to wipe out civilization during that awful Day of the Lord. Or listen once again to another of God's prophets as he gives his version of the Day of the Lord.

"Come near, ye nations to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein;

the world, and all things that come forth of it.

For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter.

Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcases, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood.

And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

. . . For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompences for the controversy of Zion.

And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch." Isaiah 34:1-4 and 8-9.

We might multiply passage upon passage from almost all of the prophets to show the unprecedented tribulation which is coming upon this earth when God comes to punish the wicked and to vindicate His cause and to prepare for the ushering in of His glorious kingdom of peace and righteousness. But lest some should say that all this was fulfilled in the captivity of the nation of Israel under Babylon and Persia and Greece and Rome we turn now to the New Testament and listen to the words of Jesus Himself in corroborating all the prophets had foretold. Listen to our blessed Lord as He Himself speaks,

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

Let him which is on the house top, not come down to take anything out of his house:

Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

And woe unto them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!

. . . For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION,

such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matt. 24:15-19 and 21-22.

This is Jesus' description of the DAY OF THE LORD and the GREAT TRIBULATION, called also the DAY OF VENGEANCE of our God and the TIME OF JACOB'S TROUBLE. The whole Bible therefore is in perfect agreement that at the end of this age there will be a period of tribulation, war, famine, sorrow and death and destruction, with signs in the heavens and on earth of such indescribable intensity and severity, that it will make all the wars, famines, disasters, and holocausts of the past seem like child's play, with mere tin soldiers.

STILL IN THE FUTURE

Since the Bible clearly foretells such a time there are only three possibilities. Either the Bible is wrong in the prediction of this terrible Day of the Lord, or it is already past, or it must still lie in the future. The first of these, that the Bible should be mistaken, we reject without any argument, since in every other matter the Bible has been proven to be the inerrant infallible Word of God. Prove one mistake in the Bible and the whole Book goes, everything goes, salvation, our hope of eternal life and all the comfort of the Scriptures. The Bible is true, and so we come to the two other questions. Has this already occurred, or does it lie in the future? The answer is simple. The things described in the passages we have read have never yet been fulfilled. The sun has not been darkened, the moon has never turned to blood, all nations have never yet met for battle in the valley of Jehoshaphat, the blood of slain men has never stood in the valley of Meggido to the death of three feet, as the Bible says it will in the last great battle of the ages. Moreover the Day of the Lord will end with the personal visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ from heaven to this earth, and this has never yet happened, so there is only one answer, **THAT DAY OF THE LORD IS STILL FUTURE** and we believe is in the very near future. All the preparation in the world points to that climactic day when the nations of the world will face their final showdown.

THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS

In the following chapters we hope to deal with the exact period of time this Day of the Lord will last, namely SEVEN years, and some of the features of this terrible day which are not generally known, and then we shall devote one message to the windup of this great day, the Battle of Armeggedon and the glorious Second Coming of our Blessed Lord and King. We trust that these brief messages will stimulate you to study this subject more thoroughly for yourselves. The Bible is full of this line of teaching and the last book of the Bible, Revelation is almost entirely occupied with this coming Day of the Lord.

But our main purpose in these lectures is a practical one. First to arouse sinners to flee from the wrath to come, and second to bring to believers the blessed hope of Jesus' return for us BEFORE that awful day breaks upon the world. The Day of the Lord will be ushered in by the return of Christ IN THE AIR to TAKE OUT all believers BEFORE the tribulation. This is one of the surest revelations of Scripture. According to II Thess. 2, THAT day will not come until "that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition". II Thess. 2:3 But this man of Sin, the Antichrist will not be revealed until the Church has been taken out. II Thess. 2:7.

And so the next positive event on the calendar of God is the Blessed Hope, the resurrection of all those who sleep in Christ and the rapture of these, together with all living believers. How real is this hope in YOUR life? Do you really believe God's Word which says,

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

WHEREFORE COMFORT YE ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS." I Thess. 4:16-18

Do you REALLY believe those words? If you do, then you believe that one of these days, that same Jesus who was born nineteen hundred years ago, suffered and died on Calvary, arose and ascended to heaven is coming again, literally, personally, with the same body in which He went away. And if you believe that then let me ask ARE YOU READY for that day? For come it will and it may at any time. Is your house in order for His return? Is there anything in your life you would want to be different if He were to come today? If you say you are looking for His imminent return and yet permit things in your life you would not be found with when He comes, then your profession is only hollow words, then your life gives the lie to that which you profess. The BLESSED HOPE must be a purifying hope or it is no hope at all.

And sinner will you receive Christ today? Once He has come the door for you will be eternally closed and you must face the wrath of God in the great tribulation, then to perish and be lost forever. Oh, flee from the wrath of God before it is too late.

"He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." John 3:18-19

CHAPTER TWO

The expression "Day of the Lord" found so many times in the Bible refers in every instance where it occurs to that brief period of intense judgment upon this earth between the Rapture of the church at Jesus' coming in the air, and His second coming in glory with His church to set up the Messianic Millennial kingdom. The next event on God's program is the Rapture of the church when all saints dead and living will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. After she is gone, the Antichrist will appear and the tribulation or Day of the Lord will begin. This period of time will last for exactly seven years and will be terminated by the public return of Jesus, the binding of Satan and the casting of the Antichrist into the Lake of Fire.

WHERE FIND THE SEVEN YEARS

The most frequent objection heard in regard to this tribulation period is that there is no definite proof that this period will last for exactly seven years. Last week we established the FACT of this period of time from the scriptures, today we shall try and give you the teaching of the Word in regard to its duration. The Bible is very clear if we are willing to compare the several passages which deal with this subject. We begin by referring first of all to the prophecy of Daniel. In the 9th chapter of Daniel we have God giving to Daniel one of several prophetic revelations concerning the course of history and the end of this age. Daniel had been studying such scriptures as were then existant and inquiring of the Lord as to the future of his people Israel, and the Holy city Jerusalem. In answer to the prayer of Daniel the Lord gives us the remarkable vision of the Seventy weeks of Daniel nine. Here are the words,

... "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to appoint the Most Holy." Daniel 9:24.

This passage will give us the key to the Day of the Lord which as we shall see corresponds exactly to the last or the seventieth of these weeks mentioned in this important verse. Several things are to be noticed and carefully considered in this verse. First notice that God says there is a definite period of time determined during which the Lord will complete His purposes for the nation of Israel. It is called **SEVENTY WEEKS**. We shall determine just how long that is in just a moment. Second, notice that this is a certainty. The Lord says, "seventy weeks are **DETERMINED**". It is a fixed fact and a fixed period of time, **DETERMINED**, so that there can be no deviation from this fact or this figure. Third notice that this seventy weeks has to do with the Hebrew nation, the people of Daniel, the nation of Israel, here called "thy", that is, Daniel's people. Fourth it has to do especially with the land of Palestine and the city of Jerusalem, called here "**THY HOLY CITY**", about which Daniel was so deeply concerned during his captivity. The fifth and last thing mentioned in the verse tells us when this seventy weeks will end. It will be when "transgression has ended, and sin is conquered," (that is, when Daniel's people Israel shall be converted). It is further stated that it will end when the Lord brings in "everlasting righteousness", which of course is in the millennial age when Jesus reigns upon the earth. Next it will end, when he has sealed up the vision and the prophecy, that is, when the prophecies concerning the coming kingdom age have been fulfilled. One other thing is mentioned, the anointing of the most holy. This refers to the Millennial temple which will be rebuilt in that day and become the center of the worship of the earth in the millennial age.

THE SEVENTY WEEKS

Now before we take up the other details, notice once again the exact period of time spoken of "seventy weeks". This means literally **SEVENTY SEVENS** of years, or seventy weeks of seven years each, making a total of **FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY YEARS** of God's dealing with the nation of Israel until the Millennium or age of Righteousness will be ushered in. Seven years are called a **WEEK** in other parts of Scripture so we have God's own Word that the **WEEKS** here are periods of seven

years. When Jacob in Genesis 29 had worked for seven long years for Rachel his bride, he was double-crossed by his scheming father-in-law, and received the less attractive Leah instead of Rachel for whom he had worked so hard. When Jacob complained about this deception, Laban offers to give him Rachel also if he will work another period of seven years, and this period of seven years is called a WEEK. Here is the passage. Laban is speaking to Jacob,

"Fulfill her week, and we will give thee this also for the service which thou shalt serve with me yet seven other years." Genesis 29:27.

Here then is God's authority for calling seven years a WEEK. The same rule applies here in Daniel 9. The expression SEVENTY WEEKS then means Seventy Sevens of years, or exactly FOUR HUNDRED AND NINETY YEARS.

THE DIVISION OF WEEKS.

Now turning to the next verse (Dan. 9:25) God gives Daniel some added information concerning this seventy weeks. It gives first of all the exact date of the beginning of this period of time, and then the fact that this period of seventy years is divided into three definite parts of 49 years, then 434 years and finally the last week exactly seven years. The first two periods adding up to 69 weeks (483 years) have been fulfilled and the last week still lies in the future. All this is made clear in verse 25,

"Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem, unto the Messiah the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times." Daniel 9:25.

First, the exact date of the beginning of the first week is definitely stated to be when the commandment is given to rebuild the city of Jerusalem which was destroyed by Israel's captors. We have the exact date given in Nehemiah 2. Nehemiah made a request of the king to go back to Palestine with a company of Jews to rebuild the walls and restore the city. The request was granted and

the exact year, month, and day is given to us when the commandment was given by the king to permit this journey. Here is the record.

"And it came to pass in the month Nisan, in the twentieth year of Artaxerxes the King, that wine was before him: and I took up the wine, and gave it unto the king . . ." Nehemiah 2:1.

Nehemiah then makes his request, and his desire is granted and the king signs the decree on this date given in this chapter. Now we have the date referred to in Daniel 9, when the seventy weeks began.

The next figure in this verse (Daniel 9:25) is a period of seven weeks, during which the temple was rebuilt and Jerusalem restored. We have the complete record of all this in the books of Ezra and Nehemiah, and we know what troublous times these were. This rebuilding of Jerusalem, history corroborates, took exactly 49 years, no more, no less, and corresponds exactly to the SEVEN weeks from the going forth of the commandment to restore the city until it was completed.

THE SIXTY TWO WEEKS.

The next period of time is SIXTY TWO WEEKS from the completion of the restoration of Jerusalem to the CROSS. This is given in the next verse, (Daniel 9:26)

"And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself; and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary; and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined."

Forty-nine years after the commandment to restore Jerusalem, the sixty-two weeks of 434 begins, making a total of 483 years or exactly 89 weeks. Then Messiah is to be cut off, referring to the crucifixion of Jesus, the Messiah. That ends the 69th week, the total of the forty nine and the sixty two. After the cross the city of Jerusalem was destroyed by the Roman armies, called here the "people of the prince that shall come". The "Prince that shall come", refers to the Antichrist, further

identified in the next verse. Here then is the picture. Forty nine years are occupied with the rebuilding of Jerusalem, then four hundred thirty-four years pass until the crucifixion of Jesus when the nation rejected their Messiah, and God stopped the clock of Hebrew history and began the new work of calling out the church in this present dispensation. Israel is set aside just before the last week, the 70th takes place and for the last 1900 years, God is calling out the church while Israel is out of the land in dispersion. This leaves one week the last week of the 70, exactly seven years unfulfilled, and in the future. When God is through with the church and she is caught away into heaven, the Lord will again begin dealing with Daniel's people Israel and the land of Palestine and the city of Jerusalem. The Antichrist, (called "the prince of the people that shall come") in the previous verse, will arise in the earth and the day of the Lord, the tribulation, the time of Jacob's trouble will begin for just 7 years, the last of the 70 weeks. We have a brief reference to this period in the next verse (Daniel 9:27)

"And he (the Antichrist) shall confirm the covenant with many for ONE WEEK (This is the seventh) and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate, even until the consumation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate. (DESO-LATOR) Daniel 9:27.

Here then is the last unfulfilled week. The Antichrist will appear at the beginning of that future week, after the church is gone, he will make all kinds of promises to the nation of Israel, return them to their land of Palestine, rebuild their temple, reinstitute their old testament sacrifices and offerings and promise to protect and befriend them. But in the middle of the week, after just three and a half years, he will show his true color, turn upon Israel and seek to destroy them. He will defile their temple by setting up an image of the beast in the Holy place and cause all to worship this beast, called the "abomination of desolation", and all who refuse will be put to death, were it not for God's intervention in the sealing of the 144,000 faithful ones in the tribulation.

This setting up of the abomination of desolation begins the second half of the seventieth week and is called the GREAT TRIBULATION. The whole week is THE TRIBULATION, the last half is called the GREAT tribulation.

THE ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION.

Jesus establishes the correctness of this interpretation, and in Matthew 24 tells us, in referring to Daniel's prophecy,

"When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand (ing) in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him-understand,)"

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened." Matthew 24:15, 21, 22.

This Great Tribulation covers the last half of the seventieth week, a period of three and a half years, following the setting up of the image of the beast in the "midst" of the week.

AFFIRMED IN REVELATION

To clinch the whole matter beyond all argument the Spirit has given us through John, some figures even more exact. In Revelation 11, we are told that during this GREAT tribulation, two witnesses will appear to Israel, (Moses and Elijah) and they will prophesy exactly three and a half years.

"And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days . . ." Revelation 11:3.

Moreover in Revelation 13 we have the record of the Antichrist setting up his image of the beast (the abomination of desolation of Daniel 9 and Matthew 24), which as we know will occur in the middle of the week. John tells us in Revelation 13:14,

"And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword and did live.

. . . and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed." Revelation 13:14-15b

This is the setting up of the abomination in the MIDDLE of the week and in verse 5 we are told that this will be for a period of just exactly half of the last week.

"And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months." Revelation 13:5.

We have given you the Bible picture of the seventy weeks and trust we have helped you in understanding it more clearly. Soon the last week of God's dealing with Israel will commence but not until every raised and living believer has been caught away to escape the day of the wrath and vengeance of Almighty God. What a blessed hope that He has promised to take us out before that great and terrible day of the Lord shall come. But we are deeply concerned about YOU who are not yet believers on the Lord Jesus, for you will then have to perish in that awful day and then to be lost for all eternity. All the signs are pointing to the soon return of the Lord Jesus and the ushering in of the day of the Lord. Trust Him now and bow before His claims before it is forever too late.

"That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:9.

CHAPTER THREE

"And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood;

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind.

And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:

For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:12-17.

Someone has called this account "the world's last prayer meeting," when the men who have refused to acknowledge the Lord Jesus Christ and laughed at those who prayed to God, now pray to rocks and mountains to cover them before the face of that very God, as He now comes to judge the world and them for their wicked deeds and their rejection of the Son of God. This passage in Revelation 6 is part of God's own description of that awful coming day at the end of this dispensation, called in the Scriptures "The Day of the Lord," the tribulation and The time of Jacob's trouble. According to the Bible plan of the ages, so clearly outlined throughout the whole Bible, this present age will not end in world-wide revival and universal peace and prosperity, but on the contrary this present age will become increasingly more wicked and violent, just as in the days of Noah, until at last it will seem that man will utterly destroy himself, when suddenly the Lord Jesus will return in the clouds of heaven, call all the redeemed of all ages up to Himself in the clouds, and then when all the saved are out of the way

here on the earth, the Lord will usher in that great and terrible day of the Lord to last for exactly seven terrible, awful years.

LAST REVELATION OF BIBLE

The importance of this revelation may be seen from the prominent place which the Holy Spirit gives to this line of prophecy in the Bible. Practically all the Old Testament prophets devoted chapter after chapter to a detailed description of this terrible coming day. Jesus spent most of the last few days with His disciples here on earth warning them about this coming time of tribulation. And the last book of the Bible is almost entirely occupied with a most awe-inspiring and graphic description of the things which will happen here upon this earth between the Rapture of the Church and the setting up of the Messianic Millennial kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. One may ignore the study of this revelation but it will not change the fact that God says it is coming. If the Lord has given such prominence in His Word about this Day of the Lord, it behooves every Christian who wants to know God's plan to study carefully what God has to say about this coming day.

The passage which we read at the head of this chapter describing the opening of the sixth seal is only a fraction of the volume of information contained in this Book. Time would be inadequate to go into detail of all the many passages, so a closer study of just this one passage in Revelation will serve as a pattern for man of the others. The Book of the Revelation gives us a chronological description of the world's history from the FIRST coming of Jesus to His Second coming again. In chapter One of Revelation we are introduced to the central person of the Book, the Lord Jesus Christ. In Chapters Two and Three we have God's own prophecy concerning the history of the Church from Pentecost to the Second Coming, under the description of the seven churches of Asia, from Ephesus to Laodicea. At the close of the Laodicean age in chapter three we reach the end of the Church age. Revelation Four, therefore, opens with the rapture, John representing the Church is caught out of the earth, and you will never find the church mentioned again in Revelation, because all that follows after Chap-

ter Four happens on this earth, and the Church is not here. From Revelation 6 to 19 we have God's own record of what will happen upon this earth AFTER the Church is gone. It is given under seven seals, seven trumpets and seven bowls of wrath. The first six seals cover the first half of the seven years of tribulation, and the last three and a half years are covered by the seventh seal, which includes the seven trumpets and the seven vials of God's wrath, completing the tribulation period. It ends with the Battle of Armageddon and the glorious return of Christ in Revelation 19. The last three chapters tell us of the Kingdom age to follow, the final judgment and the glorious eternal rest. This in brief is the outline of the last Book of the Bible, and we give it to you as an outline to help you in studying this simple but important book for yourselves.

THE SIXTH SEAL

A study of the sixth seal which will come in about the middle of the week of tribulation will give some idea of the intensity of this time of trouble. Many things are mentioned here. First of the series of judgments is a tremendous earthquake. The word, "earthquake", here means a tremendous convulsion or shaking, and is referred to in verse 13, like the shaking of a fig tree in a mighty wind. As a result of this great earthquake, accompanied by volcanic eruptions, the earth will reel to and fro like a drunken man, and toss and roll like a wave of the sea. Earthquakes in the Bible are usually omens of the judgment of God. When the law was given the earth quaked, at the Cross at the judgment for our sins, the earth did quake. Of course, wicked man will not acknowledge the hand of God in the convulsions of nature, they can explain all on a scientific and geologic basis, but when this occurs they will have to confess a higher power.

SUN AND MOON DARKENED

The next horrifying incident is the darkening of the sun and of the moon. "The sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood." There have been eclipses before in history, and pagans and savages in their superstition attached awful significance

to them, but modern, educated, sophisticated man goes to the other extreme and scoffs at all these things. He can explain everything, and does not recognize the Creator in any of these matters. We have advanced so far today that we do not need God anymore. We are well able to help ourselves and explain everything on a purely sane, naturalistic basis and sneer at and reject all mention of the supernatural in these disturbances of nature and the signs in the heavens and on the earth. Why, we can predict eclipses and the coming of meteors for centuries ahead, we can make it rain by scattering dry ice in the clouds, we fly at supersonic speed and soon they tell us we will be flying to the moon. Man has progressed so far that he feels no need for God anymore. But as we shall see there is a time coming when they will have to confess that He is Lord.

The next signs are in the stars, probably referring to a shower of meteors. As this great earthquake convulses this world, and great volcanoes spew out their fire and ash and smoke, until the sun is darkened over the whole world and the moon hides her light, it will result in a disturbance in the atmosphere. According to Isaiah 13, the explosions will jar the earth out of her course and make her leave her orbit to fly off at a tangent into the path of other heavenly bodies and meteors. We recommend that you read carefully Isaiah 13. See what God says about this old earth in the tribulation.

THE HEAVENS RECOIL

Next we are told that the heavens departed as a scroll; that is, rolled together. Great billowing clouds of smoke reaching up into incalculable space will give the sky the appearance of being folded up like a roll of black paper, as the earth trembles, and heavens, and groans and splits. One other thing is mentioned and this too is corroborated in many other passages of the Bible.

"And every mountain and island were moved out of their places." Rev. 6:14.

Every mountain moved, every island displaced. Does this seem fantastic? Listen, my friend, just read the newspapers and you will read things just as fantastic. During your lifetime and mine, mountains have been born

and have disappeared. A few years ago a farmer in Mexico was hoeing corn. He heard a roar and a rumbling, felt a vibration, then a shock, and suddenly before his very eyes on this little farm, the earth exploded, fire belched forth, the lava boiled out and covered his home, his farm, and a great area of the surrounding countryside, and today one of the younger volcanoes in history is still actively piling up in the cornfield in Mexico, until it has become a great mountain. But mountains also disappear. During my brief lifetime there have appeared several accounts of islands appearing and disappearing overnight. Marine mountains suddenly vanishing to the bottom of the ocean. Yes, we believe those things. Maybe some of you smile as I talk about the coming day of the Lord, when the mountains will be removed, and the islands flee away, and the sun be darkened and the stars fall from heaven. Maybe some of you laugh and pity me for my ignorant gullibility in believing such fantastic things in the Bible. Isn't it strange though, that when you read in the newspapers about mountains appearing and disappearing you did not smile; you believed the reports. But when God says the same thing you smile and call it fantastic. Such is the depravity and blindness of the natural man. He would rather believe the reports of men than the Words of God. But God's Word stands just the same and one of these days Jesus will come according to promise, and all these things will happen and then, yes then, these very scoffers will act quite differently. We have the record of their behaviour in the verses which follow in Revelation 6.

The effect of all these judgments upon the proud and haughty inhabitants of the earth is terrible. Proud man, today shaking his puny fist in the face of his Creator, blaspheming His Name, foul-mouthed and vicious in their hatred for the Son of God, boasting of his achievements, will then finally be compelled and forced to admit the very God whom they have denied. Listen once more to the record:

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

*And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us,
and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the
throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb:*

*For the great day of his wrath is come; and who
shall be able to stand?" Rev. 6:15-17.*

How pitiable, absurd, and foolish is now the behaviour of the proud boasters and rejectors of the Word of God. Many an opportunity to pray they had scoffed at, and looked with pity upon the poor fools who superstitiously believed in prayer to God. But now they pray, the mighty and the rich joining the poorest and the lowest. They had often sneered at praying men; now they all pray. Ah, imbecile people, when your prayers would have availed you refused; now when they cannot avail, you pray.

But even more absurd and inane is the object of their petitions. Once they scoffed at men who prayed to a living God; now they pray to dead, inanimate rocks and mountains. And notice the folly of their prayers; they pray to be hidden from the eyes of the All-seeing One. Hear them as cringing and whining, like beaten puppies these proud boasters who had devastated the earth wallow in the dust and pray to stones and hills to hide them from the God whom they refused once to face. Gone is all their braggadocia, their boasting, their pride. They had refused Christ, now they fear to face His wrath. But all their praying is to no avail as the rest of the record of Revelation clearly teaches us. It is now too late. The day of opportunity is gone, the door is shut forever.

Ah, my friend, how about YOU? To which company do YOU belong? To those who now have believed the record of God's grace, or of those who now reject Him, take His Word lightly and as of no consequence, to them, in that day, be forced to join in the fruitless prayer meeting of the eternally damned? Oh, I know that this kind of preaching is not popular. I realize that, but as a faithful minister of Jesus Christ I have no choice; I MUST PREACH THE WORD, and this is God's unchangeable Word. God's Word is either true or it is false. If what I have preached is not true, the most serious damage I could possibly have done is to unduly scare and alarm you for a little while without any permanent damage.

But if this Word is true, AND IT IS! then my failure to proclaim it would make me a despicable, unfaithful impostor in not warning men and women to flee from this terrible judgment, but worse than that, I should be guilty of rocking you to sleep with a false gospel and be responsible for your eternal loss. God help you to face the issue before it is too late. Ask yourself this question in closing. Is God's Word the truth? You either believe it or you reject it. And upon that decision depends your eternal destiny.

"He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the Only begotten Son of God.

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light." John 3:18-19.

CHAPTER FOUR

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.

And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.

Behold, I come as a thief, Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.

And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue ARMAGEDDON.

And the seventh angel poured out his vial into the air; and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, It is done."

Rev. 16:12-17

"And every island fled away, and the mountains were not found.

And there fell upon men a great hail out of heaven, every stone about the weight of a talent: and men blasphemed God because of the plague of the hail; for the plague thereof was exceeding great."

The seventh vial in the book of the Revelation brings us to the end and conclusion of the tribulation period, the great day of the Lord. Under the sixth vial we have the last great battle of all the ages, called by the Holy Spirit ARMAGEDDON, a word which has become familiar to all of us in these last days, from newspaper and magazine articles and radio reports. The coming dreaded conflict is again and again referred to as an ARMAGEDDON. The only source for that word is Rev. 16:16.

In our past messages on the tribulation, or day of the Lord, we have seen a few of the general happenings in judgment during this period. We have already seen that this tribulation will last for exactly seven years from the time the church is raptured BEFORE the tribulation,

until she returns WITH Christ at the close of the tribulation. This period of time will come to a close with the battle of Armageddon, the greatest concentration of armies the world has ever seen or will see, gathered against the city of Jerusalem in the land of Palestine. All nations will be represented, and with the ten existing weapons of modern warfare, the atomic bomb and jet propelled aircraft and projectiles, biological and chemical warfare, not to mention many others which today are still a close secret, it would mean the swift and complete destruction of all mankind, and this old world itself. The Bible says, "that except those days be shortened, there should no flesh be saved." So get this picture clearly in mind. The next thing is the return of Christ in the air to take out every believer before the tribulation. Then the man of sin, the Antichrist will take over, and after showing many favors to the nation of Israel will turn upon them as their enemy and seek to destroy them. Judgment after judgment will fall until it seems that all civilization will perish. God will supernaturally preserve and protect the remnant of Israel, called the elect, and then at the end of seven years, the greatest war machine the world has ever known will gather in Palestine, there to be destroyed by the personal appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ with His bride. This final battle is called Armageddon, and the description of which occupies so much of prophecy both in the Old and New Testament. We can merely give you the barest outline, but trust it will serve to stimulate you to more careful personal study along this line.

THE LOCATION OF ARMEGEDDON.

First notice the exact location as given in the Scriptures. It is called the place ARMEGEDDON. The word comes from two other Hebrew words HAR and MEGIDON, meaning, "hills of crowding troops or armies." The hills of Megiddo lie about 50 miles almost due north of Jerusalem and about 20 or 25 miles southwest of the Lake of Galilee. They consist of two ranges of rocky hills, and between them is a great plain, extending from the Jordan valley toward the Mediterranean Sea. This valley floor, containing over 4500 square miles, has been proclaimed by military experts to be the most ideal battlefield in all the world. It has seen more bloody battles during

its past history than any other equal spot of ground in the world. The valley is called the Valley of Jezreel and the valley of Jehoshaphat, from incidents in the history of Israel. Joel in describing that battle tells us just where it will be fought.

"For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem,

I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat,

. . . Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles; Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up;

Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong.

. . . Let the heathen be awakened, and come up to the valley of Jehoshaphat: for there will I sit to judge all the heathen round about.

. . . Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision.

The sun and the moon shall be darkened, and the stars shall withdraw their shining.

The Lord also shall roar out of Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; and the heavens and the earth shall shake: but the Lord will be the hope of his people, and the strength of the children of Israel."
Joel 3:1, 2, 9-12, and 14-16.

Time prevents us from giving Joel's description of this great army as given in the previous chapter (Joel 2), in which we find that this great army will be equipped with all the modern instruments of war and the tremendous effect upon the peoples of the earth. But just when it seems that the enemies of Israel will succeed, the one great event toward which all these events have been moving will suddenly happen. The Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, the King of all the earth, will suddenly appear from heaven. The exact spot where He will appear is given to us by Zechariah the prophet.

"Behold, the day of the Lord cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee.

For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Then shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations as when he fought in the day of battle.

And his feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east, and the mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and toward the west, and there shall be a very great valley;

. . . And ye shall flee to the valley of the mountains; for the valley of the mountains shall reach unto Azal: yea, ye shall flee, like as ye fled from before the earthquake in the days of Uzziah king of Judah: and the Lord my God shall come, and all the saints with thee." Zech. 14:1-5.

One needs but little comment on a passage as crystal clear as this one. All one needs to do is to read it simply as a child with an open mind, and all is plain. In the midst of that great battle against Jerusalem, the Lord returns WITH all His saints and alights upon the Mount of Olives, on which He was glorified, and from which He ascended, and at the sight of Him, terrible consternation will grip the millions in the army of the enemy, they shall suddenly disintegrate, and flee in utter disorder and their carefully organized march will result in a rout and disorderly retreat. They will retreat northward until they come to the valley of Jerzeel, the place called Armageddon, and there will meet their miserable doom. This event is described in hundreds of other passages in the Bible, even as far back as before the days of the flood of Noah. Enoch, the man who did not see death already spake of this day when according to Jude,

"Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints,

To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him." Jude 14, 15.

THE END OF THE BATTLE.

But the battle is soon over and the armies of Satan are defeated. We can do no better than give you the words of Scripture themselves as recorded through the Apostle John by the Holy Spirit in Rev. 19:17-21.

"And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God;

That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great.

And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army.

And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." Rev. 19: 17-21.

Ezekiel gives the same picture and adds some more details. So great will be the destruction, and the battlefield will present such a scene of confusion, littered beyond description with the slain and the millions of pieces of artillery and arms that it will take a full seven months to bury the dead and to cleanse the land. Here is Ezekiel's description:

"Therefore thou son of man, prophesy against God, and say, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against thee, O Gog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal:

And I will turn thee back, and leave but the sixth part of thee, and will cause thee to come up

from the north parts, and will bring thee upon the mountains of Israel:

And I will smite thy bow out of thy left hand, and will cause thine arrows to fall out of thy right hand.

Thou shalt fall upon the mountains of Israel, thou, and all thy bands, and the people that is with thee: I will give thee unto the ravenous birds of every sort, and to the beasts of the field to be devoured.

And they that dwell in the cities of Israel shall go forth, and shall set on fire and burn the weapons, both the shields and the bucklers, the bows and the arrows, and the handstaves, and the spears, and they shall burn them with fire seven years:

And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will give unto Gog a place there of graves in Israel, the valley of the passengers on the east of the sea: and it shall stop the noses of the passengers: and there shall they bury Gog and all the multitude: and they shall call it The valley of Hamon-gog.

And seven months shall the house of Israel be burying of them, that they may cleanse the land.

Yea, all the people of the land shall bury them: and it shall be to them a renown the day that I shall be glorified, saith the Lord GOD.

And they shall sever out men of continual employment, passing through the land to bury with the passengers those that remain upon the face of the earth, to cleanse it: after the end of seven months shall they search.

And I will set my glory among the heathen, and all the heathen shall see my judgment that I have executed and my hand that I have laid upon them."

Ezekiel 39:1-4, 9, 11-14, 21.

In this message we have done little more than read to you from the Word of the Lord that you might know that these are not the words of man, or my personal opinion or interpretation, but indeed and verily the WORD of the Lord. These things and events are near upon us today. One has but to read the papers or listen to reports to see the pattern already taking form, and the nations preparing for the very things set forth in the

Word of God. How needful that we should set our house in order and lift up our heads for our redemption draweth nigh. The next event prophetically is the return of Christ, and then after this brief day of the Lord, He will set up His kingdom and,

“Jesus shall reign where’er the sun
Doth his successive journeys run.
His kingdom reach from shore to shore,
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.”

EVEN SO COME, LORD JESUS

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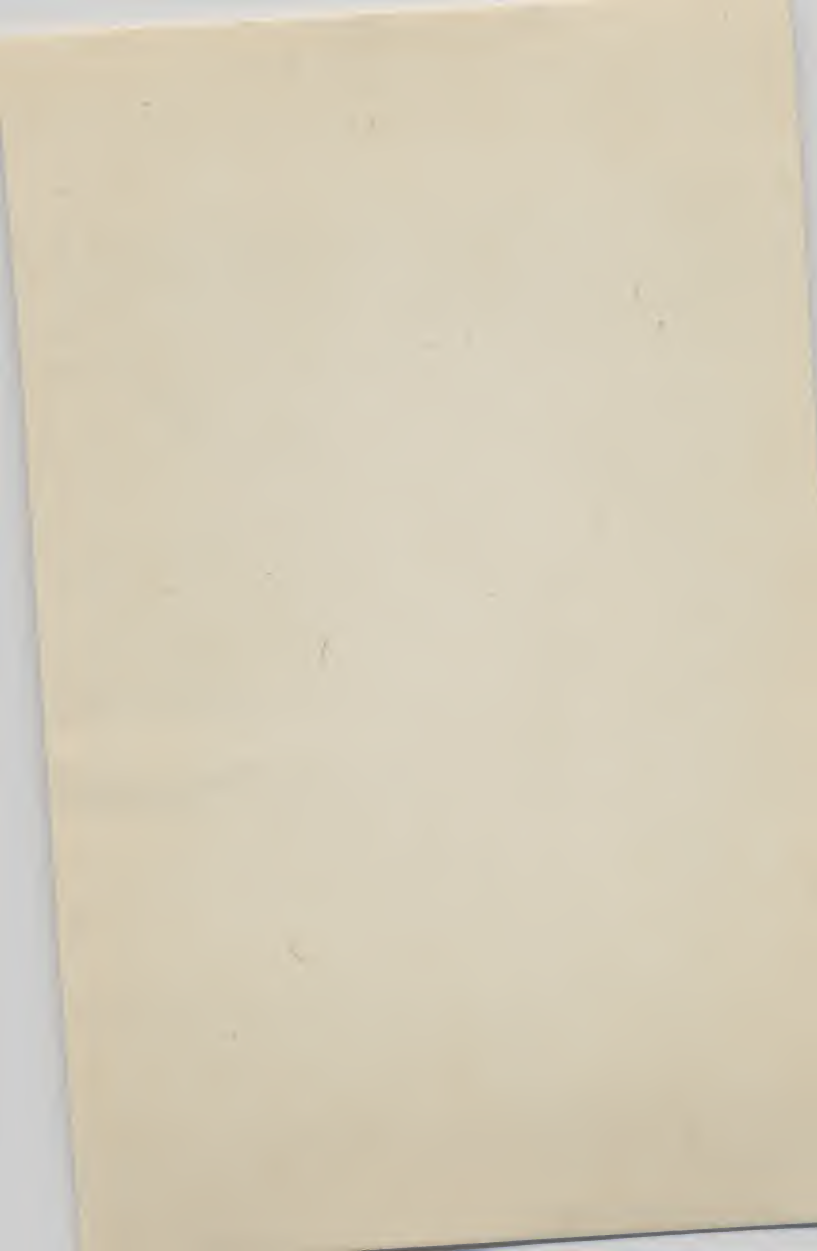
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